CLAIMS

1. A method for forward link power control in a wireless communication system during soft handoff, the method comprising:

detecting a quality of a signal received at a base station transceiver subsystem engaged in a soft handoff of a communication with a wireless device;

instructing the base station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality if the quality is below a predefined target signal quality;

instructing the wireless device to increase a pilot channel transmit power level; and

instructing the wireless device to decrease a power gain of other channels in relation to the pilot channel.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the power gain of other channels in relation to the pilot channel is decreased by an amount that is equal to an amount by which the pilot channel transmit power level is increased.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the power gain of other channels in relation to the pilot channel is decreased by an amount that is more than an amount by which the pilot channel transmit power level is increased.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the instructing the base station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality is performed in response to decreasing a required frame error rate for data received at the base station transceiver subsystem.

5. An apparatus for forward link power control in a wireless communication system, comprising:

a first processor configured to detect a quality of a signal received at a base station transceiver subsystem engaged in a soft handoff of a communication with a wireless device, and to instruct the base station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality if the quality is below a predefined target signal quality; and

a second processor coupled to the first processor and configured to instruct the wireless device to increase a pilot channel transmit power level, and to decrease a power gain of other channels in relation to the pilot channel.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein:

the first processor is further configured to instruct the base station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality by decreasing a required frame error rate for data received at the base station transceiver subsystem.

7. A base station transceiver subsystem configured to engage in a soft handoff of a communication with a wireless device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium coupled to the processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to detect a quality of a signal received at a base station transceiver subsystem engaged in a soft handoff of a communication with a wireless device;

instruct the base station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality if the quality is below a predefined target signal quality;

instruct the wireless device to increase a pilot channel transmit power level; and

instruct the wireless device to decrease a power gain of other channels in relation to the pilot channel.

8. The base station transceiver subsystem of claim 7, wherein:

the set of instructions is further executable by the processor to instruct the base station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality by decreasing a required frame error rate for data received at the base station transceiver subsystem.

9. A base station controller configured to engage in a soft handoff of a communication with a wireless device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage medium coupled to the processor and containing a set of instructions executable by the processor to detect a quality of a signal received at a base station transceiver subsystem engaged in a soft handoff of a communication with a wireless device; and

instruct ~~the base~~ station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality if the quality is below a predefined target signal quality.

10. The base station controller of claim 9, wherein:

the set of instructions is further executable by the processor to instruct the base station transceiver subsystem to improve the signal quality by decreasing a predefined frame error rate for data received at the base station transceiver subsystem.